

Message Text

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ACTION STR-01

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 EB-03 SP-01 L-02

EUR-10 IO-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 INRE-00

SSO-00 AGR-03 AID-10 COME-00 TRSE-00 DRC-01 (ISO) W

----- 051352

O 061645Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4644

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, GATT, EEC, IT

SUBJECT: GATT ARTICLE XXIV:6 - TOBACCO

PASS STR FOR AMB MALMGREN, PASS AGRIC

REF: ROME 5896

1. EMBASSY FOLLOWED UP WITH DENATOR DAL FALCO BY TELEPHONE (HE IS CAMPAIGNING IN VERONA) TWICE ON MAY 6 AND ALSO WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL GUAZZARONI OF MFA.

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2. DAL FALCO TELLS US THAT INSTRUCTIONS WERE SENT TO ITALIAN

PERMREP AS HE HAD INFORMED US ON APRIL 30. SUBSEQUENTLY, ITALIANS HAD BECOME AWARE OF BELGIAN OBJECTION TO RAISING 280 U.A. THRESHHOLD WHICH INITIALLY LED TO TENDANCY RETREAT TO COMMISSION PROPOSAL FOR 55 U.A. AND 14 PERCENT. ON FURTHER THINKING, EC POSITION SEEMS TO BE REVOLVING TOWARD PROPOSING A SMALL REDUCTION IN AD VALORUM BEYOND 280 U.A.

3. AGATT TOLD DAL FALCO THAT US HAD SEEN TWO POSSIBLE AVENUES FOR A SETTLEMENT, EITHER INCREASING THE 280 U.A. THRESHHOLD OR SEPARATING WRAPPER AND CIGARETTE TOBACCOS. WHILE US PREFERS SEPARATION, AGATT TOLD DAL FALCO THAT REJECTION BOTH OPTIONS AND SUBSTITUTION OF A NEW ONE AT THIS LATE POINT WAS UNHELPFUL. DAL FALCO AGREED AND SAIC THAT EC PROPOSAL SHOULD BEE SEEN AS A NEGOTIATING POSITION AND NOT A FINAL OFFER.

4. DAL FALCO INFORMED US THAT ON MAY 13 A MEMBER OF BOMBASSEI'S STAFF IN BRUSSELS (DAL DIZZIO) WILL COME TO ROME FOR FINAL DISCUSSION OF GOI POSITION ON TOBACCO. HE IS CONFIDENT U.S. WILL BE SATISFIED WITH OUTCOME AND URGED PATIENCE.

5. THE MEETING WITH GUAZZARONI WAS INCONCLUSIVE. DIRECTOR GENERAL WAS AWARE OF EC RETREAT FROM 55-14 POSITION AND NOTED THAT HE HOPED THIS WOULD OPEN WAY TO PROMPT AND SATISFACTORY SETTLEMENT. VOLPE

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